

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 647

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, WB
SUBJECT: KREUTZER REINSTATED IN BERLIN POST

REF: USBERLIN 387

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT AS RESULT OF PUBLICIZING HIS BEHIND-THE-SCENE EFFORTS WITHIN THE SPD TO DISCREDIT GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL KOHL FOR ALLEGED BETRAYAL OF FORMER SPD MEMBERS IN THE 1950'S TO SOVIET INTELLIGENCE, HERMANN KREUTZER, DIRECTOR OF THE INNER GERMAN MINISTRY OFFICE IN BERLIN, WHO ALSO SERVES AS DEPUTY FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY, WAS SUMMARILY FIRED BY MINISTER FRANKE. MISSION HAS SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT MATTER WAS THOROUGHLY AIRED AT FEDERAL CABINET MEETING IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DECIDED TO REVERSE EARLIER DECISION APPARENTLY AFTER BERLIN COMMISSIONER SPANGENBERG, WHO WAS APPOINTED RECENTLY TO SERVE AS A STATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF INNER GERMAN AFFAIRS, PRESENTED A STRONG ARGUMENT FOR RETAINING KREUTZER.

2. WHILE PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PARTY LOYALTY MAY
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HAVE BEEN FACTORS IN DECISION TO RETAIN KREUTZER, WE UNDERSTAND CHANCELLOR ON SPANGENBERG'S ADVICE ACTED MAINLY OUT OF CONCERN OVER THE PROBABLY ADVERSE PR AND POLITICAL EFFECT THAT FIRING OF CAPABLE AND STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST SENIOR SPD CIVIL SERVANT WOULD HAVE ON ALREADY SCANDAL-RIDDEN LOCAL SPD ESPECIALLY AT A TIME OF INCREASING GDR POLITICAL PRESSURE ON

THE CITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE UNDERSTAND IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE CHANCELLOR (AND PERHAPS SPANGENBERG AS WELL) MAY ONLY BE AWAITING A MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF THE UNPREDICTABLE KREUTZER BY EASING HIM INTO ANOTHER SUITABLE POSITION. AS KREUTZER LACKS INDEPENDENT MEANS AND THUS IS ALMOST ENTIRELY DEPENDENT FINANCIALLY ON HIS GOVERNMENT SALARY, HE HAD TO PAY THE INEVITABLE POLITICAL PRICE FOR REINSTATEMENT; AT SPANGENBERG'S URGING HE RELUCTANTLY HAS AGREED TO DROP AT LEAST FOR PRESENT HIS PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST KOHL AND ALSO TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS EMBARRASSING EITHER TO FRG OR TO SPD.

3. SINCE KHOL IS EXPECTED TO BE REPLACED SOON IN BONN, THE SPD IS SAID TO BE HOPEFUL THE WHOLE MATTER WITH KREUTZER WILL QUIETLY BLOW OVER. A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO KNOWS KREUTZER WELL COMMENTED THAT WHILE LATTER IS GRATEFUL FOR SPANGENBERG'S INTERCESSION ON HIS BEHALF, THE INTENSE RESENTMENT THAT HE HARBORS TOWARD THE FRG AND HIS OWN PARTY FOR ACCEPTING A MAN OF KOHL'S SORDID BACKGROUND AS GDR REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO BE MUZZLED INDEFINITELY, REGARDLESS WHETHER SPEAKING OUT FURTHER WILL MEAN ULTIMATELY THE LOSS OF HIS JOB.

4. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, FRG HAS LEARNED THAT A LEADING CANDIDATE FOR KOHL'S JOB IS HERBERT HAEBER, CHIEF OF THE WESTERN AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE SED
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND AN EXPERT ON THE FRG (REPORT TO THIS EFFECT APPEARED IN MARCH 1 ISSUE OF DIE WELT). GEORGE

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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